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6	TROY ALEXANDER RICHARDSON				
7	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT				
8	NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA				
9	TROY ALEXANDER RICHARDSON, ) Case No.				
10	) Plaintiff, )				
11	v. ) COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES				
12	CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF ) CORRECTIONS AND ) JURY TRIAL DEMANDED				
13	REHABILITATION, SECRETARY OF ) CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF )				
14	CORRECTIONS AND ). REHABILITATION SCOTT KERNAN, )				
15	SALINAS VALLEY PRISON ) WARDEN SHAWN HATTON, )				
16	SALINAS VALLEY PRISON CASE ) RECORDS SUPERVISOR N. )				
17	MONTOYA, SALINAS VALLEY ) PRISON CORRECTIONAL )				
18	COUNSELOR QUINTERO, SAN ) QUENTIN STATE PRISON WARDEN )				
19	RONALD DAVIS and DOES 1-25, ) Jointly and Severally, )				
20	Defendants.				
21					
22	Plaintiff TROY ALEXANDER RICHARDSON, by and through his attorneys, the				
23	HELBRAUN LAW FIRM, for his Complaint against Defendants, states as follows:				
24	I. INTRODUCTION				
25	1. Plaintiff TROY ALEXANDER RICHARDSON (hereinafter referred to as				
26	"RICHARDSON") was paroled from Salinas Valley State Prison on July 14, 2016 based upon an				
27	accurate calculation of California Department of Corrections "actual time credits" and "local				
28	conduct credits" applied to his prison sentence as amended – but on September 12, 2016, he was				

COMPLAINT AND JURY DEMAND

unlawfully and wrongfully seized by law enforcement officers claiming he had escaped from
prison rather than having been released, and was wrongfully returned to prison incarceration
through and including June 16, 2017, based upon a purported re-calculation of his correct
sentence which was in fact grossly inaccurate. Plaintiff RICHARDSON therefore was wrongfully
incarcerated and deprived of his constitutional rights without due process and in violation of State
and Federal law for a period of 297 days. This was also contrary to authoritative representations
made to Plaintiff in writing by various prison officials in January 2016 that Plaintiff's release date

II. JURISDICTION

2. This action is brought pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983, 42 U.S.C. § 12133 and the statutory and common law of the State of California. Jurisdiction is based upon 28 U.S.C. § 1343 and 29 U.S.C. §§ 794 and 706(8)(B), and the Court's pendent jurisdiction over the state claims.

would indeed be in July 2016, upon which representations Plaintiff justifiably relied.

### III. PARTIES

- Plaintiff TROY RICHARDSON is an African-American man and citizen of the State of California who resides in San Francisco, California.
- 4. Defendant CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND REHABILITATION (hereinafter referred to as "CDCR") is a California state agency that administers California state prisons, including but not limited to the proper calculation of a prison inmate's sentence or amended sentence, based upon its rules and regulations regarding various factors including any sentencing enhancements, "actual time credits" for time actually incarcerated in prison, and "local conduct credits" for good conduct by the prison inmate while incarcerated, to ensure that a prisoner does not serve more time in prison than the law requires, resulting in unlawful overdetention. The CDCR is also responsible for maintaining accurate records relating to a prison inmate's incarceration sentence to ensure that a prisoner does not serve more time in prison than the law requires, resulting in unlawful overdetention. The CDCR is also responsible for maintaining accurate records relating to a prison inmate's incarceration and CDCR-sanctioned release, to ensure that a prisoner who has already paid his debt to society by

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serving his allotted sentence in accordance with the applicable sentencing rules and regulations, and who is then duly released on parole, is not incorrectly branded as an escaped prisoner, subject to capture and reincarceration, rather than correctly identified as a duly released prisoner who has served his allotted sentence.

- 5. Defendant SCOTT KERNAN is the agency executive of the CDCR, commonly referred to as the Secretary of the CDCR. In that capacity, KERNAN at all times material hereto was and is responsible, among other duties, to ensure that employees of the CDCR properly calculate a prison inmate's sentence or amended sentence, based upon CDCR rules and regulations regarding various factors including any sentencing enhancements, "actual time credits" for time actually incarcerated in prison, and "local conduct credits" for good conduct by the prison inmate while incarcerated, to ensure that a prisoner does not serve more time in prison than the law requires, resulting in unlawful overdetention. As Secretary of the CDCR, KERNAN was and is also responsible to ensure that CDCR employees maintain accurate records relating to a prison inmate's incarceration sentence so that a prisoner does not serve more time in prison than the law requires, resulting in unlawful overdetention. As Secretary of the CDCR, KERNAN was and is also responsible to ensure that CDCR employees maintain accurate records relating to a prison inmate's incarceration and CDCR-sanctioned release, to ensure that a prisoner who has already paid his debt to society by serving his allotted sentence in accordance with the applicable sentencing rules and regulations, and who is then duly released on parole, is not incorrectly branded as an escaped prisoner, subject to capture and reincarceration, rather than correctly identified as a duly released prisoner who has served his allotted sentence.
- 6. Defendant SHAWN HATTON at all material times was the Warden of Salinas Valley State Prison (hereinafter referred to as "SVSP"). In that capacity, HATTON at all times material hereto was and is responsible, among other duties, to ensure that SVSP staff properly calculate a prison inmate's sentence or amended sentence, based upon CDCR rules and regulations regarding various factors including any sentencing enhancements, "actual time credits" for time actually incarcerated in prison, and "local conduct credits" for good conduct by the prison inmate while incarcerated, to ensure that a prisoner does not serve more time in prison

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than the law requires, resulting in unlawful overdetention. As Warden of SVSP, HATTON was and is also responsible to ensure that SVSP staff maintain accurate records relating to a prison inmate's incarceration sentence so that a prisoner does not serve more time in prison than the law requires, resulting in unlawful overdetention. As Warden of SVSP, defendant HATTON was and is also responsible to ensure that SVSP staff maintain accurate records relating to a prison inmate's incarceration and CDCR-sanctioned release, to ensure that a prisoner who has already paid his debt to society by serving his allotted sentence in accordance with the applicable sentencing rules and regulations, and who is then duly released on parole, is not incorrectly branded as an escaped prisoner, subject to capture and reincarceration, rather than correctly identified as a duly released prisoner who has served his allotted sentence.

- 7. Defendant N. MONTOYA (first name unknown) at all material times was the Case Records Supervisor at SVSP. In that capacity, defendant MONTOYA at all times material hereto was responsible, among other duties, for ensuring that Plaintiff's, or any other inmate's, sentence and amended sentence was properly calculated based upon CDCR rules and regulations regarding factors including sentencing reductions, court credits, "actual time credits" for time actually incarcerated in prison, and "local conduct credits" for good conduct by Plaintiff, or other inmates, while incarcerated, to ensure that a prisoner does not serve more time in prison than the law requires, resulting in unlawful overdetention. As Case Records Supervisor at SVSP, MONTOYA was and is also responsible to ensure that accurate records were maintained relating to Plaintiff's, or any other SVSP inmate's, incarceration sentence, so that Plaintiff, or any other prisoner, does not serve more time in prison than the law requires. As Case Records Supervisor at SVSP, defendant MONTOYA was and is also responsible for ensuring that SVSP maintained accurate records relating to Plaintiff's, or any other inmate's, incarceration and CDCR-sanctioned release, so that a prisoner who has already paid his debt to society by serving his allotted sentence in accordance with the applicable sentencing rules and regulations, and who is then duly released on parole, is not incorrectly branded as an escaped prisoner, subject to capture and reincarceration, rather than correctly identified as a duly released prisoner who has served his allotted sentence.
  - 7. Defendant QUINTERO (first name unknown) at all material times was a

9. Defendant RONALD DAVIS at all material times was the Warden of San Quentin State Prison (hereinafter referred to as "SQSP"). In that capacity, DAVIS at all times material hereto was and is responsible, among other duties, to ensure that SQSP staff properly calculate a prison inmate's sentence or amended sentence, based upon CDCR rules and regulations regarding various factors including any sentencing enhancements, "actual time credits" for time actually incarcerated in prison, and "local conduct credits" for good conduct by the prison inmate while incarcerated, to ensure that a prisoner does not serve more time in prison than the law requires, resulting in unlawful overdetention. As Warden of SQSP, defendant DAVIS was and is also responsible to ensure that SQSP staff maintain accurate records relating to a prison inmate's incarceration sentence so that a prisoner does not serve more time in prison than the law requires, resulting in unlawful overdetention. As Warden of SQSP, defendant DAVIS was and is also responsible to ensure that SQSP staff maintain accurate records relating to a prison

inmate's incarceration and CDCR-sanctioned release, to ensure that a prisoner who has already paid his debt to society by serving his allotted sentence in accordance with the applicable sentencing rules and regulations, and who is then duly released on parole, is not incorrectly branded as an escaped prisoner, subject to capture and reincarceration, rather than correctly identified as a duly released prisoner who has served his allotted sentence.

- 10. The true names and capacities of Defendants sued herein as DOES 1-25 ("Doe Defendants") are unknown to Plaintiff, who therefore sues said Defendants by such fictitious names, and Plaintiff will seek leave to amend this complaint to show their true names and capacities when the same are ascertained. At all material times, each Doe Defendant was an employee or agent of Defendant CDCR and/or of Defendants HATTON, DAVIS, and MONTOYA, acting within the course and scope of that employment.
- Defendants sued herein was negligently, wrongfully and otherwise responsible in some manner for the events and happenings as hereinafter described, and proximately caused injuries and damages to Plaintiff. Further, one or more Doe Defendants were at all material times responsible for the hiring, training, supervision, and discipline of other Defendants, and/or directly responsible for violations of Plaintiff's rights.
- 12. Each individual defendant is sued in his or her individual and official capacities.
- belief alleges, that each of the defendants was at all material times an agent, servant, employee, partner, joint venturer, co-conspirator, and/or alter ego of the remaining defendants, and in doing the things herein alleged, was acting within the course and scope of that relationship. Plaintiff is further informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that each of the defendants herein gave consent, aid and assistance to each of the remaining defendants, and ratified and/or authorized the acts or omissions of each defendant as alleged herein, except as may be hereinafter otherwise alleged.
  - 14. At all material times, each defendant was jointly engaged in tortious

activity, resulting in the deprivation of Plaintiff's rights under the United States Constitution and the laws and Constitution of the State of California, and other harm.

- 15. At all material times, each defendant acted under the color of the laws, statutes, ordinances and regulations of the State of California, and pursuant to the actual customs, policies, practices and procedures of the governmental entity by which they were employed or retained.
  - 16. This complaint may be pled in the alternative pursuant to FRCivP 8(d).

### IV. STATEMENT OF FACTS

- 17. Plaintiff RICHARDSON was originally sentenced on or about May 24, 2012 for a felony conviction for California Penal Code Section 211, 2<sup>nd</sup> degree robbery, committed in 2011 ("the 2011 2<sup>nd</sup> degree robbery"). On or about June 6, 2012 an Abstract of Judgment issued regarding Plaintiff's sentence for this penal Code violation (hereinafter referred to as, "the Original Abstract of Judgment").
- 18. The Original Abstract of Judgment provided, *inter alia*, for a 5-year sentence for the 2011 2<sup>nd</sup> degree robbery conviction, as well as a 5-year enhancement purportedly pursuant to Penal Code Section 12022.5(A), regarding enhancements for use of a firearm in the commission of a felony. However, there is no 5-year enhancement under Section 12022.5 for commission of a felony using a firearm that is not an "assault weapon" type of firearm, as that term is used in Section 12022.5(B). The only enhancement applied to Plaintiff's sentence Section 12022.5(A), the enhancement specifically referenced in the Original Abstract of Judgment are for 3, 4, or 10 years, **not** for 5 years.
- 19. The Original Abstract of Judgment also provided, in pertinent part, that Plaintiff was required to serve his sentence "at 85%," rather than 100%.
- 20. The Original Abstract of Judgment also provided, in pertinent part, that Plaintiff would receive credit for time already spent in custody totaling 392 days, based upon "actual local time" in jail of 212 days, plus "local conduct credits," *i.e.*, "good conduct" credit, of 180 days.
  - 21. Subsequently, in or about early 2013, Plaintiff assisted the San Joaquin

County District Attorney's Office as a witness testifying on behalf of the prosecution in a separate murder trial. In exchange for Plaintiff's assistance, he received a reduction in the sentence he was serving for his conviction for the 2011 2<sup>nd</sup> degree robbery through additional "actual local time" credits towards his sentence.

- 22. On or about April 22, 2013, an Amended Abstract of Judgment issued regarding Plaintiff's conviction and sentence (hereinafter referred to as, "the April 2013 Amended Abstract of Judgment"). The April 2013 Amended Abstract of Judgment provided for the same 5 year sentence for the conviction for the 2011 2<sup>nd</sup> degree robbery and provided for the same, erroneous, 5-year enhancement under Penal Code Section 12022.5(A), which Section does not in fact provide for any 5-year enhancement, as noted in paragraph 18 above.
- 23. The April 2013 Amended Abstract of Judgment provided Plaintiff with "actual local time" credits of 863 days which was 268 more days of actual time served by Plaintiff than the total number of days he had in reality actually served leading up to that time: 212 actual time served days, as credited in the original Abstract of Judgment; plus 333 actual time days of incarceration between the May 24, 2012 date of the Original Abstract of Judgment and the April 22, 2013 Amended Abstract of Judgment. In other words, following his assistance to the San Joaquin District attorney, Plaintiff was effectively granted at least a 268-day additional reduction in his sentence, pursuant to an arrangement with the San Joaquin County District Attorney's Office.
- 24. The April 2013 Amended Abstract of Judgment also provided "local conduct credits" of 130 days. Accordingly, as of April 22, 2013, Plaintiff's sentence was deemed credited with a total of 993 days, which was duly noted on the April 2013 Amended Abstract of Judgment.
- 25. On or about October 27, 2014, a further amended Abstract of Judgment issued with regard to Plaintiff's conviction and sentence for the 2011 2<sup>nd</sup> degree robbery, which further amended Abstract of Judgment continued to stipulate that Plaintiff receive an additional credit of 863 days, as had been provided for in the April 22, 2013 Amended Abstract of Judgment. The October 27, 2014 further amended Abstract of Judgment shall be hereinafter referred to as

"the October 2014 Amended Abstract of Judgment."

- 26. On or about December 26, 2014, a still further Amended Abstract of Judgment regarding Plaintiff's sentence issued which is hereinafter referred to as "the December 2014 Amended Abstract of Judgment." The December 2014 Amended Abstract of Judgment corrected the erroneous firearm enhancement sentence discussed in paragraph 18 above, from a 5-year enhancement, to a 4-year enhancement, per Section 12022.5(A). Accordingly, the December 2014 Amended Abstract of Judgment effectively reduced Plaintiff's sentence by one year, or 365 days.
- 27. The December 2014 Amended Abstract of Judgment also specified that as of that date, Plaintiff had a total of 1,510 total days credit towards time served on his sentence, being comprised of 1,313 days of "actual local time" served, plus 197 days of "local conduct credits."
- 28. In addition, Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that as of December 26, 2014, he was also properly entitled under CDCR rules and regulations and California law to approximately 800 days credit for good conduct, known as "local conduct credits."
- 29. On or about January 1, 2016, defendants advised Plaintiff in writing that they had calculated his release date from SVSP as being July 14, 2016, based upon all applicable rules and regulations of the CDCR, California law, and the various amended judgments discussed in paragraphs 17-27, above.
- 30. Plaintiff reasonably and in good faith relied on the statements of defendants that he would be released on July 14, 2016 in accordance with California law and CDCR rules and regulations.
- 31. Plaintiff was in fact officially released from SVSP and CDCR custody on or about July 14, 2016, at which time he was paroled by the CDCR, and assigned a parole officer. Plaintiff then dutifully performed all his parole obligations, including but not limited to timely reporting to his parole officer as requested.
  - 32. Plaintiff also reasonably relied on the actual conduct of defendants in

officially releasing him from SVSP on or about July 14, 2016, representing to him that his release was in accordance with California law and CDCR rules and regulations, and that he had served his sentence as required by law after correctly applying all applicable sentencing credits as well as the reduction in the sentence enhancement from 5 years to 4 years. Plaintiff reasonably and in good faith relied on defendants' statements and conduct in this regard to reasonably understand and in good faith believe that he had served his debt to society and completed his prison incarceration term in accordance with the law, and, assuming successful completion of his post-incarceration parole, was entitled to enjoy his liberty as a citizen of the United States and the State of California without further incarceration for the 2011 2nd degree robbery.

- 33. Plaintiff did in fact observe and obey all conditions of his post-incarceration parole as required by the CDCR for as long as he was permitted to do so by defendants. Following his official release from prison on July 14, 2016, Plaintiff became engaged to be married, with a wedding date set for October 18, 2016, spent time with his young children, commenced work, and in all other respects returned to life as a free and productive citizen, in reliance upon the statements and conduct of defendants in repeatedly advising him that as of July 14, 2017, he had completed his sentence for the 2011 2<sup>nd</sup> degree robbery and could re-commence his life as a free man.
- 34. However, on or about September 12, 2016, at the direction of various of the defendants, armed law enforcement officers descended on Plaintiff's residence and seized Plaintiff under threat of force and intimidation, advising him, incorrectly, that he was a prison escapee who they were taking back to prison to be re-incarcerated under threat of deadly force. Plaintiff was afforded neither notice nor an opportunity to be heard regarding defendants' assertion that he supposedly had escaped and/or that he supposedly had not served his required prison sentence and must be returned to incarceration and life as a convict.
- 35. Plaintiff was taken on or about September 12, 2016 to San Quentin State Prison, where he was put in "the hole" and deprived of all privileges, upon the erroneous basis that Plaintiff was an escaped prisoner, rather than a citizen who had already served his sentence at SVSP and had been duly and properly released from SVSP in accordance with California law and

 applicable CDCR rules and regulations, as described in paragraphs 29 through 31 above.

- 36. At all material times, various defendants including but not limited to SQSP Warden DAVIS and Doe defendants working at SQSP failed to make appropriate inquiries and required calculations to properly assess the actual status of Plaintiff as a free citizen who had completed his sentence and had been duly and officially released by CDCR as described in paragraphs 29 through 31 above, and who was not an escaped prisoner and who should not be further imprisoned.
- 37. Various defendants including but not limited to SQSP Warden DAVIS and Doe defendants working at SQSP wrongfully kept Plaintiff imprisoned even though these defendants knew or should have known that Plaintiff had served his sentence and been duly and properly officially released from SVSP by the CDCR in July 2016 after serving his sentence in accordance with the various amended judgments in his case and the CDCR rules and regulations for accurate calculation of time served and all sentencing credits to which Plaintiff was entitled.
- 38. Plaintiff was later transferred from SQSP back to SVSP on or about September 16, 2016,, where he was treated as "C Status," meaning as an escaped prisoner, and deprived of all privileges, again, upon the erroneous basis that Plaintiff was an escaped prisoner, rather than a citizen who had already served his sentence at SVSP and had been duly and properly officially released from SVSP in accordance with California law and applicable CDCR rules and regulations, as described in paragraphs 29 through 31 above.
- Warden HATTON, SVSP Corrections Counselor QUINTERO, SVSP Case Records Supervisor N. MONTOYA, and those Doe defendants working at SVSP, failed to make appropriate inquiries and required calculations to properly assess the actual status of Plaintiff as a free citizen who had completed his sentence and been duly and properly released by CDCR as described above in paragraphs 29 through 31, and who was not an escaped prisoner and who should not be further imprisoned, nor imprisoned without those privileges afforded those whose conduct has been exemplary, as had Plaintiff's.
  - 40. Various defendants including but not limited to SVSP Warden HATTON,

SVSP Corrections Counselor QUINTERO, SVSP Case Records Supervisor N. MONTOYA, and the Doe defendants working at SVSP wrongfully kept Plaintiff imprisoned even though these defendants knew or should have known that Plaintiff had served his sentence and been duly and properly released by the CDCR in July 2016 after serving his sentence in accordance with the various amended judgments in his case and the CDCR rules and regulations providing for accurate calculation of time served and all sentencing credits to which Plaintiff was entitled.

- 41. Plaintiff and his agents repeatedly, verbally and in writing, protested he reincarceration and the miscalculation of his sentence and various sentence credits from on or about September 12, 2016 to June 2017. Plaintiff finally obtained an order of release by Court Order on June 5, 2017, however, he was not immediately released. Accordingly, Plaintiff was wrongfully detained and re-incarcerated in prison in violation of State and Federal law from September 12, 2016 to and including June 16, 2017 a period of 277 days, or 9 months and 4 days. During this period, Plaintiff was denied privileges to which prisoners of good conduct would be entitled, including but not limited to enhanced visitation rights, based upon the erroneous and wrongful presumption that Plaintiff had supposedly escaped prison in July 2016 rather than having been duly and properly officially released by the CDCR pursuant to an accurate and correct calculation of Plaintiff's credited days of time spent in custody and other credits to which he was entitled under California law and the various amended judgments in his case.
- 42. Accordingly, defendants, and each of them, wrongfully imprisoned Plaintiff for 9 months and 4 days, in violation of State and Federal law, and also in violation of their own previous calculations that resulted in their representations to Plaintiff that he would be released on July 14, 2016, and their actual conduct in then actually duly and officially releasing Plaintiff from SVSP on July 14, 2016.
- 43. On or about November 22, 2016, defendant N. MONTOYA wrote to Plaintiff and stated for the first time that, "due to resentence cases being very complex, your EPRD ("Earliest Possible Release Date") was calculated erroneously at July 14, 2016, due to an administrative oversight," and that "after a recalculation CDCR has to return you to custody on September 12, 2016" however, as noted, this was written to Plaintiff more than two months

after September 12, 2016, on November 22, 2016. On information and belief, Plaintiff alleges that defendant MONTOYA, and other defendants, knew or should have known that under California law and CDCR rules and regulations, Plaintiff was properly released on July 17, 2016 and should not have been wrongfully seized and imprisoned again in September 2016. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that various defendants herein wrongfully sought to have court records purged to remove the 863 days of credit he received after cooperating with the San Joaquin District Attorney.

- 44. On or about December 1, 2017, Plaintiff timely and properly caused to be personally delivered to the California State Government Claims Office a claim for injuries, losses and damages suffered and incurred by Plaintiff by reason of the above-described occurrences, all in compliance with the requirements of the California Government Code.
- 45. On or about February 1, 2018, the California Department of General Services, Government Claims Program ("GCP"), rejected Plaintiff's claim, stating, in pertinent part, that "the claim involves complex issues that are beyond the scope of analysis and legal interpretation typically undertaken by GCP." This action is timely filed within all applicable statutes of limitation.

### V. DAMAGES

46. As a direct and proximate result of the acts and omissions of Defendants, and each of them, Plaintiff sustained damages, in an amount to be determined according to proof, including but not limited to loss of freedom and incarceration in prison for at least 277 days, extreme and prejudicial physical and mental mistreatment as a purported "escaped prisoner" during that period, physical pain and suffering, emotional distress, fear, anxiety, inability to proceed with his October 2016 wedding to his beloved or to be with his three young children, humiliation, loss of personal reputation, embarrassment, loss of income, loss of physical liberty, and the deprivation of his State and Federal Constitutional rights to be free from unreasonable searches and seizures, to be free from unreasonable and unnecessary uses of force, to be free from incarceration without due process, and to be free from bodily restraint and harm, as guaranteed by the First, Fourth, Fifth, Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution, the

California Constitution, and California Civil Code Section 43.

- 47. Plaintiff has incurred and will continue to incur attorney's fees to vindicate his rights, and thus is entitled to reasonable attorneys' fees according to proof.
- 48. Plaintiff alleges on information and belief that the conduct of the individual defendants was intentional, reckless and oppressive and was done with the intent of depriving Plaintiff of his statutory and constitutional rights. The acts of the individual defendants, therefore, are such that punitive damages should be imposed against them in an amount commensurate with the wrongfulness alleged herein.

### VI. JURY DEMAND

49. Plaintiff hereby demands a jury trial in this case.

# FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION (Violations of Civil Rights, 42 U.S.C. § 1983) (All Defendants)

- 50. Plaintiff hereby realleges paragraphs 1 through 49 of this complaint, as though set forth fully herein.
- 51. As a direct and proximate result of the individual Defendants' actions and omissions, Plaintiff was deprived of his rights and privileges under the Fourth Amendment, Fifth Amendment, Eighth Amendment and the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, and the Constitution and laws of the State of California, including but not limited to California Civil Code Sections 43, 52.1, and 51.7, as well as common law torts, in that plaintiff was wrongfully and without proper cause seized and incarcerated in prison in September 2016 and wrongfully detained there for at least 277 days, without due process and through the unreasonable use of deadly force, and despite having been previously duly and officially and properly released from custody by virtue of having completed his required prison sentence.
- 52. Defendants subjected Plaintiff to Defendants' wrongful conduct, depriving Plaintiff of rights described herein, knowingly, maliciously, and/or with conscious and reckless disregard for whether the rights and safety of Plaintiff would be violated by their acts and/or omissions.
  - 53. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' acts and/or omissions as set

forth above, Plaintiff sustained injuries and damages as set forth at paragraphs 46 through 48, above.

- 54. The conduct of Defendants, and each of them, entitles Plaintiff to punitive damages and penalties allowable under 42 U.S.C. § 1983.
- 55. Plaintiff also claims reasonable costs and attorneys' fees under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 and as allowed by law.

### SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

(Violation of Civil Rights, 42 U.S.C. § 1983) (Defendant CDCR, and Does 1-10)

- 56. Plaintiffs hereby reallege paragraphs 1 through 55 of this complaint, as though set forth fully herein.
- 57. Defendant CDCR and Doe Defendants 1-10, as a matter of policy, practice and custom, have with deliberate indifference failed to adequately train, instruct, monitor, supervise or otherwise direct its officers, deputies, and employees, including the individual Defendants herein, concerning the accurate and correct calculation of prison sentencing credits and release dates, with deliberate indifference to citizens' and Plaintiff's constitutional rights, which were thereby violated as described above.
- 58. Plaintiff further alleges on information and belief that his experience is not unusual or unique, and that Defendant CDCR has demonstrated a pattern of failing to accurately calculate sentence release dates and resulting overdetention or re-incarceration of prison inmates who actually should be deemed to have served their sentences, in violation of their constitutional rights.
- 59. The unconstitutional actions and/or omissions of the Defendants, and each of them, as described above, were ordered, approved, tolerated, authorized, directed, and/or ratified by policy making officers for the CDCR and Doe Defendants 1-10.
- 60. As a direct and proximate result of the unconstitutional actions, omissions, customs, policies practices and procedures of CDCR and Doe Defendants 1-10, Plaintiff wrongfully suffered loss of liberty for at least 277 days without due process and despite having been previously duly and officially and properly released from custody by virtue of having

completed his required prison sentence, and Plaintiff as a proximate result also suffered additional 1 2 losses as described in paragraphs 46 through 48 above. 3 THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION (Violations of California Civil Code § 52.1) 4 (All Defendants) 5 61. Plaintiff hereby realleges paragraphs 1 through 60 of this complaint, as 6 though set forth fully herein. 7 62. By their acts, omissions, customs, and policies, each Defendant acting in 8 concert/conspiracy and by threats, intimidation, or coercion, as described above, violated Plaintiff's rights under California Civil Code §52.1, and the following clearly-established rights 10 under the United States Constitution, and the laws of the State of California and the California 11 Constitution: 12 a. The right to be free from unreasonable searches and seizures as secured by the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments; 13 b. The right to be free from incarceration and resulting loss of liberty 14 without due process; 15 The right to be free from wrongful government interference in one's c. freedom of expression and freedom of association with others, as 16 secured by the by the First, Fourth, and Fourteenth Amendments; 17 d. The right to be free from unlawful and unreasonable seizures of 18 one's person, including the right to be free from unreasonable or excessive force, as secured by the California Constitution, Article 1, 19 Section 13; 20 The right to be free from wrongful government interference in one's e. freedom of expression and freedom of assembly and association 21 with others, as secured by the California Constitution, Article 1, Section 2: 22 f. 23 The right to protection from bodily restraint, harm, personal insult, or injury to personal relations, as secured by California Civil Code 24 § 43. 25 63. As a direct and proximate result of each and every Defendants' violations 26 of California Civil Code §52.1 and of Plaintiff's rights under the United States Constitution and 27 the laws and Constitution of the State of California, Plaintiff sustained injuries and damages, and 28 against each and every Defendant is entitled to relief as set forth at paragraphs 46 through 48

1 above, including punitive damages against the defendants in their individual capacities, including 2 all damages and penalties allowed by California Civil Code §§ 52, 52.1, and California law, 3 including costs, attorneys fees, civil penalties, and punitive damages. 4 FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION (Violations of California Civil Code § 51.7) 5 (All Defendants) 6 64. Plaintiff hereby realleges paragraphs 1 through 63 of this complaint, as 7 though set forth fully herein. 8 65. By their acts, omissions, customs, and policies, each Defendant acting in 9 concert/conspiracy and by threats, intimidation, or coercion, as described above, and because of 10 Plaintiff's ancestry and race, violated Plaintiff's rights under California Civil Code §51.7, and the 11 following clearly-established rights under the United States Constitution, and the laws of the State 12 of California and the California Constitution: 13 The right to be free from unreasonable searches and seizures as a. secured by the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments: 14 b. The right to be free from incarceration and resulting loss of liberty 15 without due process; 16 The right to be free from wrongful government interference in one's C. freedom of expression and freedom of association with others, as 17 secured by the by the First, Fourth, and Fourteenth Amendments; 18 d. The right to be free from unlawful and unreasonable seizures of 19 one's person, including the right to be free from unreasonable or excessive force, as secured by the California Constitution, Article 1, 20 Section 13; 21 e. The right to be free from wrongful government interference in one's freedom of expression and freedom of assembly and association 22 with others, as secured by the California Constitution, Article 1, Section 2: 23 f. 24 The right to protection from bodily restraint, harm, personal insult, or injury to personal relations, as secured by California Civil Code 25 § 43. 26 66. As a direct and proximate result of each and every Defendants' violations 27 of California Civil Code §52.1 and of Plaintiff's rights under the United States Constitution and 28 the laws and Constitution of the State of California, Plaintiff sustained injuries and damages, and

a duty to act with due care in the execution and enforcement of any right, law or legal obligations:  69. At all times, each Defendants, and each of them, owed Plaintiff a duty act with reasonable care.  70. These general duties of reasonable care and due care owed to Plaintiff all Defendants include but are not limited to the following specific obligations:  a. to accurately calculate sentencing credits and prison release date b. to refrain from wrongfully seizing and incarcerating Plaintiff without due process, i.e., notice and an opportunity to be heard the violation of Plaintiff's rights;  d. to refrain from conduct that constitutes a substantial factor cause the violation of Plaintiff's rights;  d. to refrain from abusing their authority granted them by law, including but not limited to his right to liberty and to freedom assembly, freedom of association and freedom of expression;  71. Additionally, these general duties of reasonable care and due care owe Plaintiff by Defendants include but are not limited to the following specific obligations:  a. to properly and adequately hire, train, supervise, monitor and discipline their employees, agents and/or officials to ensure the those employees/agents/officers act at all times in the public in and in conformance with law;  b. to make, enforce, and at all times act in conformance with policing and in conformance w				
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11			and customs that are lawful and protective of individual rights,	

- d. to refrain from making, enforcing, and/or tolerating the wrongful policies and customs set forth at paragraphs 34, 35, 57, and 58 above.
- 72. Defendants' violations of Plaintiff's right to be free from seizure and detention without probable cause and without due process of law, use of unnecessary and unreasonable force, and violation of his right to freedom of expression and freedom of assembly and association, also constitute negligence *per se*.
- 73. Defendants, through their aforesaid acts and omissions, breached each and every one of the aforementioned duties owed to Plaintiff. Defendant CDCR is also vicariously liable for the negligent conduct of those other defendants herein under their respective hiring, control, and supervision, in accordance with the principle of *respondeat superior*.
- 74. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' negligence, Plaintiff sustained injuries and damages as described at length in paragraphs 46 through 48 above, and is entitled to relief.

### SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(False Imprisonment) (All Defendants)

- 75. Plaintiffs hereby reallege paragraphs 1 through 74 of this complaint, as though set forth fully herein.
- 76. Defendants knew or should have known that they imprisoned Plaintiff for an appreciable period of time commencing on or about September 12, 2016, without due process and without lawful justification, and in violation of California law and CDCR rules and regulations.
  - 77. Plaintiff did not consent to his unlawful and wrongful re-incarceration.
- 78. As a direct and proximate result of the unconstitutional actions, omissions, customs, policies practices and procedures of the defendants, Plaintiff wrongfully suffered loss of liberty for at least 277 days without due process and despite having been previously duly and officially and properly released from custody by virtue of having completed his required prison sentence, and Plaintiff as a proximate result suffered injuries as described in paragraphs 46 through 48 above.

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### **SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

(Promissory Estoppel) (All Defendants)

- 79. Plaintiff hereby realleges paragraphs 1 through 78 of this complaint, as though set forth fully herein.
- 80. Defendants promised Plaintiff in or about January 2016 that his prison release date would be July 14, 2016, based upon their calculation of his sentencing credits applicable to his amended judgment. This promise was reasonably understood to mean that upon release on July 14, 2016, Plaintiff would be deemed to have served his debt to society and completed his prison incarceration term in accordance with the law, and, assuming successful completion of his post-incarceration parole, was entitled to enjoy his liberty as a citizen of the United States and the State of California without further incarceration for the 2011 2<sup>nd</sup> degree robbery.
- 81. Plaintiff reasonably and in good faith relied to his detriment on the statements and promises of defendants that he would be released on July 14, 2016 in accordance with California law and CDCR rules and regulations.
- 82. Plaintiff was in fact officially released from SVSP and CDCR custody on or about July 14, 2016, at which time he was paroled by the CDCR, and assigned a parole officer. Plaintiff then dutifully performed all his parole obligations, including but not limited to timely reporting to his parole officer as requested.
- 83. Plaintiff reasonably relied in good faith and to his detriment on the actual conduct of defendants in officially releasing him from SVSP on or about July 14, 2016, representing to him that his release was in accordance with California law and CDCR rules and regulations, and that he had served his sentence as required by law after correctly applying all applicable sentencing credits as well as the reduction in the sentence enhancement from 5 years to 4 years. Plaintiff reasonably and in good faith relied to his detriment on defendants' promissory statements and conduct in this regard to reasonably understand and in good faith believe that he had served his debt to society and completed his prison incarceration term in accordance with the law, and, assuming successful completion of his post-incarceration parole, was entitled to enjoy

his liberty as a citizen of the United States and the State of California without further incarceration for the 2011 2<sup>nd</sup> degree robbery.

- 84. Plaintiff did in fact observe and obey all conditions of his post-incarceration parole as required by the CDCR for as long as he was permitted to do so by defendants. Following his official release from prison on July 14, 2016, Plaintiff became engaged to be married, with a wedding date set for October 18, 2016, spent time with his young children, commenced paid employment, and in all other respects returned to life as a free and productive citizen, in reliance upon the statements and conduct of defendants in repeatedly advising him that as of July 14, 2017, he had completed his sentence for the 2011 2<sup>nd</sup> degree robbery.
- 85. However, on or about September 12, 2016, in direct violation of the promises made to Plaintiff upon which he reasonably and detrimentally relied, armed law enforcement officers descended on Plaintiff's residence and seized Plaintiff under threat of force and intimidation, advising him, incorrectly, that he was a prison escapee who they were taking back to prison to be re-incarcerated under threat of deadly force. Plaintiff was afforded neither notice nor an opportunity to be heard regarding defendants' assertion that he supposedly had escaped and/or that he supposedly had not served his required prison sentence and must be returned to incarceration and life as a convict.
- by becoming engaged to be married and undertaking employment and other responsibilities, which obligations he was unable to fulfill as a result of defendants' subsequent conduct in reincarcerating him, without due process, contrary to their previous promises and conduct. In addition, had defendants not misled Plaintiff and represented to Plaintiff that he would be deemed to have completed his sentence on or about July 14, 2016, and not released him on that date, then Plaintiff could have challenged defendants' calculations of his sentence credits and caused defendants to acknowledge the actual, correct, calculation of his sentence and related credits, and thereby avoid the severe injuries to himself and his family caused by defendants' subsequent conduct in seizing and incarcerating him without due process and treating him as an "escaped prisoner" placed in "the hole" in SQSP and without privileges afforded to inmates of model

behavior such as Plaintiff had always been while incarcerated previously for the 2011 2<sup>nd</sup> degree robbery.

- 87. It was reasonable and foreseeable that Plaintiff would rely on defendants' promises that he would be released on July 14, 2016 and on their subsequent conduct of officially releasing him from SVSP on or about July 14, 2016 in accordance with those promises, such that Plaintiff would reasonably and foreseeably in reliance understand and in good faith believe that he had served his debt to society and completed his prison incarceration term in accordance with the law, and, assuming successful completion of his post-incarceration parole, was entitled to enjoy his liberty as a citizen of the United States and the State of California without further incarceration for the 2011 2<sup>nd</sup> degree robbery.
- 88. As a direct and proximate result of his reasonable reliance to his detriment on the promises and conduct of defendants, Plaintiff wrongfully suffered loss of liberty for at least 277 days without due process and despite having been previously duly and officially and properly released from custody by virtue of having completed his required prison sentence, and Plaintiff as a proximate result suffered injuries as described in paragraphs 46 through 48 above.

### **EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

(Equitable Estoppel) (All Defendants)

- 89. Plaintiff hereby realleges paragraphs 1 through 88 of this complaint, as though set forth fully herein.
- 90. Defendants told Plaintiff in or about January 2016 that his prison release date would be July 14, 2016, based upon their calculation of his sentencing credits applicable to his amended judgment. This statement was reasonably understood to mean that upon release on July 14, 2016, Plaintiff would be deemed to have served his debt to society and completed his prison incarceration term in accordance with the law, and, assuming successful completion of his post-incarceration parole, was entitled to enjoy his liberty as a citizen of the United States and the State of California without further incarceration for the 2011 2<sup>nd</sup> degree robbery.
- 91. Plaintiff reasonably and in good faith relied to his detriment on the statements of defendants that he would be released on July 14, 2016 in accordance with California

law and CDCR rules and regulations.

- 92. Plaintiff was in fact officially released from SVSP and CDCR custody on or about July 14, 2016, at which time he was paroled by the CDCR, and assigned a parole officer. Plaintiff then dutifully performed all his parole obligations, including but not limited to timely reporting to his parole officer as requested.
- 93. Plaintiff reasonably relied in good faith and to his detriment on the actual conduct of defendants in officially releasing him from SVSP on or about July 14, 2016, representing to him that his release was in accordance with California law and CDCR rules and regulations, and that he had served his sentence as required by law after correctly applying all applicable sentencing credits as well as the reduction in the sentence enhancement from 5 years to 4 years. Plaintiff reasonably and in good faith relied to his detriment on defendants' promissory statements and conduct in this regard to reasonably understand and in good faith believe that he had served his debt to society and completed his prison incarceration term in accordance with the law, and, assuming successful completion of his post-incarceration parole, was entitled to enjoy his liberty as a citizen of the United States and the State of California without further incarceration for the 2011 2<sup>nd</sup> degree robbery.
- 94. Plaintiff did in fact observe and obey all conditions of his postincarceration parole as required by the CDCR for as long as he was permitted to do so by
  defendants. Following his official release from prison on July 14, 2016, Plaintiff became engaged
  to be married, with a wedding date set for October 18, 2016, spent time with his young children,
  commenced work, and in all other respects returned to life as a free and productive citizen, in
  reliance upon the statements and conduct of defendants in repeatedly advising him that as of July
  14, 2017, he had completed his sentence for the 2011 2<sup>nd</sup> degree robbery.
- 95. However, on or about September 12, 2016, in direct violation of the statements and conduct described above in releasing Plaintiff, upon which he reasonably and detrimentally relied, armed law enforcement officers descended on Plaintiff's residence and seized Plaintiff under threat of force and intimidation, advising him, incorrectly, that he was a prison escapee who they were taking back to prison to be re-incarcerated under threat of deadly force.

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Plaintiff was afforded neither notice nor an opportunity to be heard regarding defendants' assertion that he supposedly had escaped and/or that he supposedly had not served his required prison sentence and must be returned to incarceration and life as a convict.

- 96. Plaintiff relied to his detriment on the statements and conduct of defendants by becoming engaged to be married and undertaking employment and other responsibilities, which obligations he was unable to fulfill as a result of defendants' subsequent conduct in reincarcerating him, without due process, contrary to their previous promises and conduct. In addition, had defendants not misled Plaintiff and represented to Plaintiff that he would be deemed to have completed his sentence on or about July 14, 2016, and not released him on that date, then Plaintiff could have challenged defendants' calculations of his sentence credits and caused defendants to acknowledge the actual, correct, calculation of his sentence and related credits, and thereby avoid the severe injuries to himself and his family caused by defendants' subsequent conduct in seizing and incarcerating him without due process and treating him as an "escaped prisoner" placed in "the hole" in SQSP and without privileges afforded to inmates of model behavior such as Plaintiff had always been while incarcerated previously for the 2011 2nd degree robbery.
- 97. It was reasonable and foreseeable that Plaintiff would rely on defendants' statements that he would be released on July 14, 2016 and on their subsequent conduct of officially releasing him from SVSP on or about July 14, 2016 in accordance with those statements, such that Plaintiff would reasonably and foreseeably in reliance understand and in good faith believe that he had served his debt to society and completed his prison incarceration term in accordance with the law, and, assuming successful completion of his post-incarceration parole, was entitled to enjoy his liberty as a citizen of the United States and the State of California without further incarceration for the 2011 2<sup>nd</sup> degree robbery.
- As a direct and proximate result of his reasonable reliance to his detriment 98. on the statements and conduct of defendants, Plaintiff wrongfully suffered loss of liberty for at least 277 days without due process and despite having been previously duly and officially and properly released from custody by virtue of having completed his required prison sentence, and

Plaintiff as a proximate result suffered injuries as described in paragraphs 46 through 48 above.

### NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress)
(All Defendants)

- 99. Plaintiff hereby realleges paragraphs 1 through 98 of this complaint, as though set forth fully herein.
- 100. Defendants' conduct in failing to give notice to Plaintiff of their intention to re-incarcerate him and by having him labeled as an "escaped prisoner," rather than as a person duly and officially released from prison by defendants, was outrageous.
- 101. Defendants in failing to give notice to Plaintiff of their intention to reincarcerate him and by having him labeled as an "escaped prisoner," rather than as a person duly and officially released from prison by defendants, acted with reckless disregard of the probability that Plaintiff would suffer serious and severe emotional distress as a result of said conduct.
- 102. Defendants in failing to give notice to Plaintiff of their intention to reincarcerate him and by having him labeled as an "escaped prisoner," rather than as a person duly and officially released from prison by defendants, proximately caused and was a substantial factor in causing Plaintiff to suffer serious and severe emotional distress as a result of said conduct and thereby being seized under threat of deadly force on September 12, 2016, thrown in "the hole" at SQSP, and being incarcerated for nine months and four days in SVSP as a "C status," meaning as an escaped prisoner, and deprived of all privileges, including but not limited to full visitation and recreational privileges afforded a prisoner of good conduct, as Plaintiff's had always been during the period of his previous incarceration and during his period on parole.

### WHEREFORE Plaintiff prays for judgment as follows:

- For general damages, including to compensate him for loss of liberty,
   motional distress, pain and suffering, according to proof at the time of trial,
- 2. For special damages, including loss of earnings, according to proof at the time of trial;
- 3. For punitive and exemplary damages as against the individual defendants commensurate with the acts complained of herein;

1	4.	For costs of suit and reasonable attorneys' fees;
2	5.	For actual damages, punitive and exemplary damages, a civil penalty of
3		\$25,000, and attorneys fees under California Civil Code §§ 52 and 52.1;
4	6.	For such other and further relief and damages as the Court may deem just
5		and proper.
6	DATED: July 30, 20	18 Respectfully submitted, HELBRAUN LAW FIRM
7		HELBRAUN LAW FIRM
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9		DAVID M. HELBRAUN
10		Attorneys for Plaintiff TROY ALEXANDER RICHARDSON
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